

Housing Planning

Winter/Spring 2003



Housing demand in Southern California greatly exceeds supply. Every five years the State identifies housing need for SCAG and other regions. State law requires that each City and County Plan for its fair share of needed housing.

Fair Share

State law recognizes the importance of providing adequate housing to all of its residents. Further, the law (CA Government Code Section 65580-65589) requires that each city and county plan for its fair share of housing need.

SCAG plays a key role in this planning process by performing the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) every five years. For SCAG, this mandate serves as the starting point for the agency's efforts to ensure that the region's housing needs are met.

Through the RHNA process, SCAG and its sub-regions allocate the fair share of the region's housing need to each jurisdiction in the region. Local jurisdictions, in turn, are required to plan for their fair share of need by completing the Housing Element of the General Plan, and specifically, by making sites available for housing construction.

Oversight From Housing & Community Development

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) exercises oversight of the RHNA process by assigning the region's total housing need to SCAG and by monitoring the allocation and revisions processes.

SCAG believes that the best way to approach the RHNA is through frank and open policy discussion about growth issues facing the region.

Full Slate of Programs

On that same basis, SCAG pursues a full slate of housing programming. SCAG's main role in the housing arena is in convening inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional dialogue. SCAG's Housing /Jobs Balance program combines the best and latest information and analysis with a consensus building approach. Ultimately, this type of information sharing, and open and honest debate can identify and create opportunities for ample safe, decent and affordable housing to be built.

Southern California's economic well-being depends on how well we perform this job. Increasingly, major employers cite the availability of housing for their work forces as a critical factor in selecting business locations. Additionally, housing production itself is traditionally one of the main engines of the Southern California economy.

RHNA Funding for 2003

As a State mandated activity, the Legislature must provide funding to cover the cost of preparing the RHNA. The State has currently funded the RHNA process inadequately. Only \$1,000 was allocated in the new State budget. In the past, when the State budget has been constrained, the State Legislature has suspended the RHNA mandate.

For more information, contact Jacob Lieb at 213-2361921 or lieb@scag.ca.gov.

Or visit this Web Site:

www.scag.ca.gov/comdev.htm



Resolving Regional Challenges

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